

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Trans](#)[What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.](#)[View this email in your browser](#)**Newsletter #100:****What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.**

Is it any coincidence that my 100th newsletter falls at the same time as the 100th birthday of my dear friend, mentor and fellow numismatist Carl Subak. Carl is nothing short of amazing. Born in Austria in 1919, he left sometime during or after the war (I can't remember exactly when). He endured some horrific events in his life like losing his beloved parents to the Nazis but he persevered. He met my father in the 1960's and showed him the the proverbial "ropes" of the numismatic world. I remember him taking me out to lunch when I worked in London for a short time in the late 1990's. He was always a charmer and continues to be. Once I started working at HJB Ltd., Carl and I quickly refreshed our friendship and started to meet regularly for lunch at Italian Village. Carl always insisted on two things: a "Viertel" of red for he and I and spumoni for desert. Carl had his own table in a little nook and we would talk about what auctions were happening and who the big players were. He also told me of the days of long before my time when some of the big names in numismatics like Jacob Hirsch, Ratto and others were actively buying. I spoke recently to his son Jon, also an accomplished numismatist, that he might actually be the first IAPN member to reach 100 years old. I am in awe of Carl. I'll see him on Sunday where we will celebrate his birthday in a small gathering of family and friends. Next week's newsletter will feature a nice photo of him. Oh, and by the way, Carl was still actively collecting Roman quinarii until about 1 year ago. I'm thankful for his friendship and wish him the happiest of all birthdays.

Thanks to those of you that helped me understand your thoughts on social media. This helps me immensely. The comments were mixed to be honest. Some of you love social media and think it is a great way to "connect" while other prefer the less invasive and more personal way to communicate via the newsletter. Food for thought for me. I'm a bit more conservative in my approach to keeping in touch with customers so I'll likely stick with the newsletters and the trade shows to communicate.

We all can finally take a breather from the craziness of New York. There are still plenty of auction opportunities so without further ado, here is what is happening this week.

Renewal of Bulgarian and Chinese MOU's

For those of you that keep apprised of the various Memoranda of Understanding that we maintain with other countries, the Bulgarian and Chinese MOU's are set to renew this month. This will likely not affect any of my customers directly but it is good to be aware of these agreements. As any responsible dealer, we do our part by working with reputable auction houses and importing material into the U.S. that is out of the source countries before the MOU was signed. My friend Peter Tompa does a wonderful blog on anything legal in the coin trade. He works closely with the IAPN and fights for the rights of collectors. If you have interest in getting Peter's updates via email just get in touch and I'll forward your email to him. I've been told more than once that we shouldn't "scare" customers with stories of cultural property but my opinion is that being aware shouldn't be scary. It just makes you a more responsible buyer.

Peus E-Auction 8 (Jan 19)

There are 944 lots of both ancient and world coins being offered in this upcoming e-sale from Peus. The e-auctions make it possible to find reasonably priced material and many times with pedigrees attached. Starting prices are very low so the possibility of getting a good deal is pretty high even with buyer's premiums figured in. This auction can be found via Sixbid or Numisbids.

Savoca Coins 15th Blue Auction (Jan 19-20)

Savoca out of Munich has two days of e-auctions starting on January 19th with 1,411 coins and continuing on the 20th with an additional 994 pieces. Savoca initiates bidding at incredibly low starting prices and offer a large variety of coins, some very obscure. Quality is more at the modest end but if you are looking for a hard to find Greek bronze this may be the place to find it as the bigger auctions likely wouldn't offer them.

Steve Album (internet only) Auction 1 (Jan 20)

Steve Album is known for his expertise on Islamic coins and has written more than a few books to prove that fact. He does however sell some ancient coins and in this first internet only auction on the 20th he offers some pieces. You might want to check it out and see if anything interests you and maybe stay on for the Islamic coins. I tried years ago to learn more about the Islamic coinage but stopped when I realized that it takes an incredible amount of patience and learning. I'm impressed with the folks that can translate these beautiful coins.

Goldberg Pre-Long Beach Auction - Session 4 (Jan 29)

Goldberg is holding its biannual auction prior to the Long Beach coin show. There are 226 ancient coins on offer. There is a nice selection of Greek and Roman coins to be had. The starting prices are low but my experience is that normally things go well above the starting price, especially coins that are above average. I guess the old adage "nothing is for free" applies here. I frequently bid in the Goldberg sales so please get in touch if you need my help.

Duplicate Books

I've had a few folks ask me recently about duplicate books I might have. It is a hodge podge of material because mostly I bought something unknowingly since my library database wasn't complete. Anything I have I will offer at what I paid for it. I don't wish to make money off my duplicate books, just find good homes for them. Please get in touch if you are interested. For example, I have part of the Gulbenkian collection books and several issues (not a full set) of the BMC books (Forni edition).



Coin of the Week

<https://www.shannaschmidt.com/greek-coins/islands-off-attica-aegina-c-480-457-bc>

ISLANDS OFF ATTICA. Aegina. c. 480-457 BC

AR Stater, 12.19g (18mm). Sea turtle, head in profile, with "T-back" design on shell / Large square incuse with skew pattern

Pedigree: Ex Berk BBS 195 (29 October 2015), lot 104; Patrick H. James Collection (Triton XVIII, 6 January 2015), lot 527; Classical Numismatic Group 55 (13 September 2000), lot 362.

Price: \$9,500

Aegina, Corinth and Athens were the very first to coin money in the western Greek world in the 6th century BC. Unlike the communities on the western coast of Asia Minor which struck electrum, an alloy of gold and silver, the mainland Greeks used only silver as their metal of choice. Of course this predilection towards silver was likely due to the close proximity of silver mines. Aegina, which held a supreme position of power on the sea, used the mines at Siphnos (modern day Sifnos), an island in the Cyclades in Greece. The other great mines at Laurium, Damastion and Paeonia served other leaders such as Athens. The earliest of the Aegina staters show a sea turtle, which was a badge of their powerful city. It is suggested that once Aegina lost its stature as a leading seafaring community it revised its coinage to reflect a land tortoise.

Coins from Aegina are among the most cherished of the early Greek coin series. The high relief turtles on generously sized flans reflect the strength of the city state. Most collectors of ancient coins enjoy to have both a land and sea turtle in their collections.

References: Meadows, Aegina, Group IIIa. Milbank Period III, pl. I, 15. Dewing 1674. Gillet 947. Gulbenkian 523. Jameson 1199

Grade: Beautiful iridescent toning and well centered with most details present. Slight wear on the shell. aEF

gk1271

<https://www.shannaschmidt.com/greek-coins/islands-off-attica-aegina-c-480-457-bc>

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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